

URBAN DISTRICT OF LEES

THE  
ANNUAL  
REPORT  
OF THE  
Medical Officer  
of Health

T. D. HUNTER, M.A., B.Sc., M.D.

INCLUDING THE REPORT OF  
THE SANITARY INSPECTOR  
FOR 1949



# LEES URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

## 1949-1950

### *Chairman of the Council :*

COUNCILLOR J. G. SWEATMAN, C.C., J.P.

### *Health Committee :*

Councillor J. Barker, *Chairman*

„ J. Gartside  
„ S. W. Thorley  
„ J. G. Sweatman  
„ F. Ward  
„ E. Taylor  
„ H. Wilkinson  
„ F. Rowland  
„ C. M. Hunter  
„ H. Slack  
„ J. Mannion  
„ C. Rawstron  
„ H. K. Dyson  
„ H. Hirst  
„ S. Pearson

### *Clerk of the Council :*

H. BOARDMAN

### *Medical Officer of Health (part time) :*

T. D. HUNTER, M.A., B.Sc., M.D.

### *Sanitary Inspector :*

G. OAKES, C.R.S.I.



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# ANNUAL REPORT

*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Urban District Council of Lees*

Council Offices,  
Cross Street,  
Lees.

MR. CHAIRMAN LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the Health of the District for the year 1949. I have pleasure in announcing that the general health remains good. A notable feature being the reduction in the Infantile Death Rate over the year 1948, from 39 per 1000 live births in 1948 to 22 per 1000 live births in 1949. Again there were no maternal deaths during the year.

To the Members of the Council and Officials, I tender my thanks for their assistance and co-operation during the past year.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Lady, and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient servant,

*T. D. HUNTER, M.A., B.Sc., M.D.*

## General Statistics.

Area in acres .....	288
Population (census 1931) .....	4738
Registrar-General's estimated resident population mid-1948 .....	4211
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Books.....	1492
Rateable Value .....	£20,274
Sum represented by a Penny Rate .....	£75

## Vital Statistics.

The main vital statistics for the year, after correction for inward and outward transfers, as furnished by the Registrar-General are given in Table 1.

TABLE I.

	Total	M.	F.	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population mid-1949	21·4
Live Births (legitimate) ...	87	52	35		
" (illegitimate) ...	3	1	2		
" " Total .....	90	53	37	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births	32
Still Births .....	3	1	2	Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated population	Crude 12·1
Deaths .....	51	26	25	Adjusted 11·1	
Deaths from Puerperal causes .....				Puerperal and Post-abortive Sepsis	0
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—				Other Maternal causes	0
All Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.....					23
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births .....					22
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births .....					0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages).....					9
" Measles (all ages) .....					0
" Whooping Cough (all ages) .....					0
" Diarrhoea (under 2 years) .....					1
Per 1000 of estimated Population					
L.E.E.S		Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System		Maternal Mortality Rate	
		Crude Death Rate	Death Rate from Cancer	Live Births	Live and Still Births
<i>Mean of 5 years, 1944-1948</i>		18·4	1·51	1·54	nil
Year—				nil	38
1948		18·0	1·42	2·37	nil
<b>1949</b>		21·4	1·21	2·14	nil
<i>Increase or decrease in 1949 on—</i>				nil	39
5 years average, 1944-1948 ...		+3·0	-3·0	+0·60	nil
Previous year ... ... ...		+3·4	-2·1	+0·01	-0·23
				nil	22
				nil	-16
				nil	-17

## 2.—Causes of Death

	Male	Female
	26	25
All causes .....		
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers .....	0	0
2 Cerebro-Spinal Fever.....	0	0
3 Scarlet Fever .....	0	0
4 Whooping Cough .....	0	0
5 Diphtheria .....	0	0
6 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.....	1	0
7 Other forms of Tuberculosis .....	0	0
8 Syphilitic diseases .....	1	0
9 Influenza .....	0	1
10 Measles .....	0	0
11 Ac. polio-myel: and polio-enceph. .....	0	0
12 Ac. inf. enceph. .....	0	0
13 Cancer of buc.cav. and oesoph (M) uterus (F)	0	0
14 Cancer of stomach and duodenum .....	2	2
15 Cancer of breast .....	0	2
16 Cancer of all other sites .....	3	0
17 Diabetes .....	0	1
18 Intra-cranial vascular lesions.....	3	5
19 Heart Disease .....	7	7
20 Other diseases of Circulatory system .....	3	0
21 Bronchitis .....	2	3
22 Pneumonia .....	1	0
23 Other Respiratory Diseases .....	1	0
24 Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum .....	0	0
25 Diarrhoea, (under 2 years) .....	0	1
26 Appendicitis .....	0	0
27 Other Digestive Diseases .....	0	0
28 Nephritis .....	1	0
29 Puerperal and post-abortive Sepsis .....	0	0
30 Other maternal causes .....	0	0
31 Premature birth .....	0	0
32 Con. mal. birth inj. infact dis. .....	0	0
33 Suicide .....	0	0
34 Road traffic accidents.....	0	0
35 Other violence causes.....	0	0
36 All other causes .....	1	3

**3—Notifiable Diseases**, (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1949 :—

DISEASE.	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED										Hospital.	
	Total cases at all ages	0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65-	Total removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital
Small Pox .....	17	...	...	7	8	2	...	...	...	...	3	...
Scarlet Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria including membranous croup .....	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Enteric Fever, excluding Paratyphoid .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Paratyphoid Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles, excluding German Measles .....	22	...	12	7	3	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Whooping Cough .....	2	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Pneumonia, primary and influenzl .....	13	...	...	...	5	...	3	3	2	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute poliomyelitis .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute polioencephalitis .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica .....	2	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...
Erysipelas .....	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Malaria, contracted in this country .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Malaria, contracted abroad .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Food Poisoning .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Any others notifiable in district, e.g.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken pox .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Any other disease .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
<b>Totals .....</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>

## TUBERCULOSIS

(1)—The notification of Tuberculosis is efficient in the district.

### NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1949.

Age periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1 ...								
1—2 ...								
2—5 ...								
5—10 ...								
10—15 ...				1				
15—20 ...	2							
20—25 ...		2				1		
25—35 ...					1			
35—45 ...		1						
45—55 ...								
55—65 ...								
65—75 ...								
75 & upward								
 Totals ...	 2	 3	 1	 1	 1	 0	 0	 0
	 5		 2		 1		 0	

## OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

CASES Number Notified	Treated		Vision Unimpaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
	At Home	In Hospital				
	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0

### Disinfection after Infectious Diseases:

Number of houses disinfected during 1949 ..... 14

Disinfectant used—FORMALIN and SULPHUR DIOXIDE

## **General Provision of Health Services for the District.**

Under the National Service Act 1946, Health Divisions were set up throughout the County Administrative Area, each Health Division being responsible for the following services:—

1. Care of Mothers and Young Children.
2. Health Visiting Service.
3. Domiciliary Midwifery Service.
4. Home Nursing Service.
5. Domestic Help Service.
6. Prevention of illness, care and after-care.
7. Vaccination and Immunisation.
8. Ambulance Service.
9. Health Centres and Health Education.
10. Infectious Diseases. Voluntary Committees.
11. Mental Health Services.

This District is within Health Division No. 14 the Office for which is at :—

“Tylon”

Middleton Road,

Chadderton,

Phone: MAIn (Oldham) 6251/2

**NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948. Section 17.**

Number of applications made during the period 5th July to 31st December 1948, under sub-section 3 .....	0
Number of orders made .....	0

## HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION

1. **TUBERCULOSIS.** Sanatorium and Hospital accommodation is provided by the County Council.
2. **MATERNITY CASES.** Maternity Cases are admitted to Boundary Park General Hospital, Oldham.
3. **CHILDREN.** Arrangements made with Oldham County Borough.
4. **SMALL-POX.** There is an agreement with the Chadderton Joint Hospital Board for the treatment of Smallpox.
5. **FEVER.** Oldham Corporation Westhulme Hospital.

## PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

### (a) GENERAL NURSING.

### (b) INFECTIOUS DISEASES. No provision for nursing is made.

**MIDWIVES.** One Midwife employed by the Lancashire County Council practises and resides within the District.

**HOME AND DOMESTIC HELP SCHEME.** Nil.

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

On the 5th July, 1948, this work was transferred to the Lancashire County Council who are now the responsible authority under the National Health Service Act, 1946.

**AMBULANCE FACILITIES** are provided by arrangement with Oldham for (a) Infectious Cases, (b) Non-Infectious and Accident Cases.

## CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

A School for Mothers and an Ante-natal Clinic is provided in the District by the Lancashire County Council at Princess Street School, on Wednesdays from 2 to 3 p.m.

## LABORATORY WORK

Arrangements made with the Pathological Laboratories at Oldham Royal Infirmary and Monsall Hospital Manchester.

## Sanitary Administration

### WATER SUPPLY

There is an efficient supply of water of good quality provided from the Oldham Corporation Waterworks for the whole district.

Action taken in respect of any form of contamination:

Filtration and Chlorination takes place at the source and tests are carried out by the Oldham County Borough.

No cases of lead contamination have been notified.

During the year 12 new houses on the Council Housing estate were supplied with water.

### RIVERS AND STREAMS

The River Medlock which flows along the Western boundary of the District, receives the sewage effluent from the Sewage Works at Crossbank. Two other streams converge on the Eastern boundary and join the River Medlock at the South West part of the District at Holts.

### SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

Sewerage of the greater part of the district is conveyed to the sewers of the Oldham County Borough—the flow being checked by Lea Recorders—and is treated at their Outfall works. The remainder is treated at our own Sewage works, by the method of precipitation, continuous filters, percolating filters and humus tanks, prior to discharge of effluent in the River Medlock.

Extensive overhaul and repairs are required to provide an efficient effluent.

All drains are examined before being covered in, and smoke or water tests applied where applicable.

### CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Privy Middens .....	0
Pail Closets .....	0
Dry Ash Pits .....	0
Movable Ashbins .....	1462
Trough Closets .....	0
Waste Water Closets .....	81
Fresh Water Closets .....	1450
Number of houses on water carriage system.....	1492

### Conversions during 1948

Number of Trough closets to fresh W.C's. .... 0

„ Waste „ „ „ ..... 0

Number of houses at which movable ashbins were substituted for fixed receptacles ..... 0

## SCAVENGING AND REMOVAL OF HOUSE REFUSE

This is carried out satisfactorily by the Sanitary authority by weekly collection and a salvage scheme is operated. Refuse is collected weekly by motor vehicle and disposed of by partially controlled tipping at the Council tip at Tumbling Bank. Approximately 1210 tons of refuse were removed.

Excrement is disposed of on the water carriage system,

## Sanitary Inspections during 1949 including Houses

During the year 800 premises were visited of which 458 were dwelling houses and 342 various other premises.

In the course of these inspections 166 defects or nuisances were found and 226 were abated.

To secure the abatement of these defects and nuisances 99 informal and 2 formal notices were served upon the owners or agents in addition to personal interviews by the Sanitary Inspector.

## SCHOOLS

There are four day schools in the District. The sanitary condition of the W.C. and lavatory accommodation at the Schools within the District is fair, some of the accommodation is obsolete and requires attention. All the schools are supplied with water from the district mains.

## SMOKE ABATEMENT

No action was taken with regard to smoke abatement.

## FACTORIES

Administration of the Factories Act 1947. Inspection for the purposes of provisions as to health including inspection made by Sanitary Inspector.

### ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACTS, 1948

1. Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health including inspection made by Sanitary Inspector.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Prosecu- tions
Factories with mech. power without mechanical power	23	30		
Other premises under the Act	1	12		
<b>TOTAL</b> ...	<b>24</b>	<b>42</b>	—	—

2. Defects found.

Particulars	Number of defects			
	Found	Remed'd	Rep. to H. M. Ins.	No. of Prosecus
Want of cleanliness .....				
Overcrowding .....				
Unreasonable temperature.....				
Inadequate ventilation.....				
Ineffective drainage of floors...				
Sanitary conveniences				
(a) insufficient				
(b) unsuitable or defective				
(c) not separate for sexes				
Other offences against the Act				
<b>Totals</b>	—	—	—	—

## RODENT CONTROL

Two maintenance treatments of the sewers in the district involving the baiting and poisoning of 181 man holes were carried out under the Infestation Order 1943 and good results obtained.

Minor infestations at various places were dealt with, 30 visits being made for this purpose.

The Council tip and Sewage works also had two treatments and the numbers of rats at these points are now much reduced.

## SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

These are administered by the Police.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### MILK SUPPLY

The administration of the Milk and Dairies Acts, Orders and Regulations (up to 30th September, 1949)

There are three dairy farms within the district, with approximately 50 cows. Systematic routine inspection of the premises carried out. 12 visits being made up to 30th September, 1949. Milk shops also were inspected.

The Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1936 to 1948, and from the 1st October, 1949, the Milk Special Designations (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.)

Number of Licences issued in respect of "Pasteurised" Milk:

1. Pasteurisation Plants.....	0
2. Retail Distributors.....	24
Dairymen or purveyors of milk (other than cowkeepers)	34

### MEAT SUPPLY

Slaughtering is not carried out in the district at the present time owing to the centralisation of Slaughter houses. Slaughtering for the district being done in Oldham.

FOOD PREMISES are inspected regularly.

Food inspected and condemned being unfit for human consumption during the year was :  
10 tins of various foods.

### FOOD POISONING

There were no outbreaks of food poisoning during the year.

## Housing.

### STATISTICS

Number of new houses erected during the year :

	Prefabricated Houses		Traditional Permanent Houses
	Temporary	Permanent	
1. By the Local Authority.....	0	0	12
2. By other Local Authorities .....	0	0	0
3. By other Bodies or Persons .....	0	0	0

#### Unfit Dwelling Houses

##### 1—Inspection

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ..... 204  
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ..... 458
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ..... 0  
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ..... 0
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ..... 0
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses (excluding those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ..... 165

##### 2—Remedy of defects without service of Formal Notices

- (1) Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ..... 137

##### 3—Action under Statutory Powers during the year

###### A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16, of the Housing Act, 1936 :

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ..... 0
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices
  - (a) By owners ..... 0
  - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners..... 0

**B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :**

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .....	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	
(a) By owners .....	2
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners .....	0

**C. Proceedings under Sec. 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :**

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .....	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .....	0

**D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :**

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms, in respect of which Closing Orders were made .....	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms, the Closing Orders in respect of which were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit .....	0

**E. Housing Act, 1936, Part IV—Overcrowding :**

(1) (a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year .....	88
(b) Number of families dwelling therein .....	144
(c) Number of persons dwelling therein .....	639
(2) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year .....	0
(3) (a) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .....	7
(b) Number of persons concerned in such cases .....	35





